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SPEECH OF THOMAS G. C. DAVIS, of the St. Louis Bar, upon the plea of insanity in behalf of Robert C. Sloo, Esq., indicted for the murder of John E. Hall. Delivered at Shawneetown, Illinois, August 13, 1857. St. Louis: George Knapp & Co., Printers and Binders. 1858. pp. 53.

SPEECH OF M. RUSSELL THAYER, for the defence, in the case of the Commonwealth against Thomas Washington Smith, in the Court of Oyer and Terminer of Philadelphia county, January 16, 1858. Reported by Charles Collis and John P. Green. Philadelphia: Robb, Pile & McElroy, Printers. 1858. pp. 52.

The subject mainly discussed in these two able pamphlets is one of the utmost importance—the defence of insanity in cases of homicide. The arguments come to us from widely distant sections of the Union, one from St. Louis, and the other from our own Bar; but there is a unanimity in the arguments which is striking. Both the learned counsel stand upon the doctrine enunciated by Mr. Erskine in the great case of *Hadfield*, 27 St. Tr. 1307. It is matter of regret that we cannot present even a condensed statement of the arguments, but our space wholly forbids it; and our sole object at this time is to call the attention of our brethren to two excellent professional arguments, very recently made, in cases attracting much public attention, as embodying the latest legal and medical views of a defence in criminal jurisprudence frequently urged, and absolutely necessary to be understood by both the Bench and the Bar.